

must be in the form of certified checks or cashiers checks.

(g) *Service of subpoenas.* The official issuing the subpoena will serve the subpoena by certified mail, return receipt requested. The check for fees and mileage described in paragraph (f) of this section shall be mailed with the subpoena. The receipt, which must bear the signature of the witness or of the custodian of the tangible evidence, and a copy of the subpoena will be filed in the claims folder, loan guaranty folder, or other applicable Department of Veterans Affairs records folder.

(h) *Motion to quash or modify subpoena.* If an individual served with a subpoena considers the subpoena to be unreasonable or oppressive, he or she may move that the subpoena be quashed or modified. Such motions must be in writing and must explain why the subpoena is unreasonable or oppressive and what relief is sought. Such motions must be filed with the Board not more than 10 days following receipt of the subpoena. Rulings on such motions will be made by the Member or panel authorizing the subpoena, who will inform all interested parties of the ruling in writing. The quashing of any subpoena will be conditional upon the return of the check for fees and mileage to the party on whose behalf the subpoena was issued.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5711, 7102(a), 7107)

[57 FR 4109, Feb. 3, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 20452, May 7, 1996]

**§ 20.712 Rule 712. Expenses of appellants, representatives, and witnesses incident to hearings not reimbursable by the Government.**

No expenses incurred by an appellant, representative, or witness incident to attendance at a hearing may be paid by the Government.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 111)

**§ 20.713 Rule 713. Hearings in simultaneously contested claims.**

(a) *General.* If a hearing is scheduled for any party to a simultaneously contested claim, the other contesting claimants and their representatives, if any, will be notified and afforded an opportunity to be present. The appellant will be allowed to present opening

testimony and argument. Thereafter, any other contesting party who wishes to do so may present testimony and argument. The appellant will then be allowed an opportunity to present testimony and argument in rebuttal. Cross-examination will not be allowed.

(b) *Requests for changes in hearing dates.* Any party to a simultaneously contested claim may request a change in a hearing date in accordance with the provisions of Rule 702, paragraph (c) (§ 20.702(c) of this part), or Rule 704, paragraph (c) (§ 20.704(c) of this part), as applicable. In order to obtain a new hearing date under the provisions of Rule 702, paragraph (c)(1), the consent of all other interested parties must be obtained and submitted with the request for a new hearing date. If such consent is not obtained, paragraph (c)(2) of that rule will apply even though the request is submitted within 60 days from the date of the letter of notification of the time and place of the hearing. A copy of any motion for a new hearing date required by these rules must be mailed to all other interested parties by certified mail, return receipt requested. The receipts, which must bear the signatures of the other interested parties, and a letter explaining that they relate to the motion for a new hearing date and containing the applicable Department of Veterans Affairs file number must be filed at the same address where the motion was filed as proof of service of the motion. Each interested party will be allowed a period of 10 days from the date that the copy of the motion was received by that party to file written argument in response to the motion.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 7105A)

**§ 20.714 Rule 714. Record of hearing.**

(a) *Board of Veterans' Appeals.* A hearing before a Member or panel of Members of the Board, whether held in Washington, DC, or at a Department of Veterans Affairs field facility, will be recorded on audio tape. In those instances where a complete written transcript is prepared, that transcript will be the official record of the hearing and the tape recording will be retained at the Board for a period of 12 months following the date of the hearing as a duplicate record of the hearing. Tape